

## **Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust**

## Increases and expands benefits<sup>1</sup>:

- <u>Increases benefits across the board</u> for all Social Security beneficiaries.
- Improves the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), so it reflects the inflation actually experienced by seniors. ^
- Ensure no one retires into poverty after a full career of work by improving benefits for long-serving, low-wage workers.^
- Improves benefits for widows and widowers from two-income households.\*^
- Restores student benefits up to age 22, for the dependent children of disabled, deceased, or retired workers.\*
- Increases access to benefits for children living with grandparents or other relatives.\*
- Repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) that currently penalize many public servants.\*^
- Ends the 5-month waiting period to receive disability benefits.\*^
- Increases benefits for the oldest old, those who have been receiving benefits for 20 years or more.\*^
- <u>Provides caregiver credits</u> to ensure that people (mostly women) are not penalized in retirement for taking time out of the workforce to care for children or other dependents.\*^
- Ends the disability benefit cliff, replacing it with a gradual offset for earnings.\*^
- <u>Provides a tax cut for middle-income beneficiaries</u>, by raising the thresholds for taxation of Social Security benefits to \$35,000 (single) and \$50,000 (married).
- <u>Corrects an unintended flaw in how Social Security benefits are wage-indexed</u>, to prevent benefits from dropping (a "notch") if the wage index decreases.\*
- Ensures that the benefit increases in the bill will not result in a reduction in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments or a loss of eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Increases benefits for five years (2022-2026)



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**Permanently improves Social Security's long-term financing**, extending the trust fund reserve depletion date by 4 years and closing more than half of the program's long-term (75-year) shortfall:

- Ensures millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share by applying FICA to earnings above \$400,000, with those extra earnings counted toward benefits at a reduced rate. ^
- <u>Combines Social Security's two separate trust funds into one fund</u>, to ensure seamless benefit payments.

Permanently strengthens the Social Security Administration (SSA)'s service delivery to the public:

- <u>Clarifies that SSA must mail annual Social Security Statements to all workers ages</u> <u>25 and older</u>, to improve their understanding of the benefits they've earned.\*
- Prevents unwarranted closures of SSA field offices.\*
- <u>Improves access to legal assistance</u> for people seeking disability benefits, by increasing the cap on attorney fees.\*

<sup>\*</sup>New provisions not in H.R 860, Social Security 2100 Act

<sup>^</sup>President Biden proposal